

THE IOWA POLL

SELZER & COMPANY

802 Iowa adults

Margin of error: ± 3.5 percentage points

Study #2070

February 3-6, 2013

Weighted by age and sex

In general, do you think things in the nation are headed in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

| Right direction | Wrong track | Not sure |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------|
| 37 | 51 | 12 |

What about here in Iowa? Do you think things in the state are headed in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

| Right direction | Wrong track | Not sure |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------|
| 58 | 28 | 14 |

I'm going to mention some elected officials. For each, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of the way each is handling his job. **(Rotate list.)**

| | Approve | Disapprove | Not Sure |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Terry Branstad as governor | 56 | 33 | 11 |
| Tom Harkin as U.S. Senator | 55 | 28 | 17 |
| Chuck Grassley as U.S. Senator | 62 | 22 | 16 |
| Matt Schultz, Iowa Secretary of State | 38 | 13 | 49 |

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as president?

(Follow with:) Do you approve or disapprove of the job he is doing: **(Rotate all items after his job as president.)**

| | Approve | Disapprove | Not Sure |
|--|-----------|------------|-------------|
| With his job as president | 49 | 46 | 5 |
| With the economy | 45 | 50 | 5 |
| With relations with other countries | 55 | 38 | 7 |
| With the budget deficit | 35 | 58 | 7 |
| With managing relationships with the U.S. Congress | 42 | 46 | 12 |

U.S. Senator Tom Harkin recently announced he will not seek re-election. For each of the following political figures, please tell me if you think the person would be an appealing candidate for U.S. Senate or not. Just answer yes or no. **(Read list. Rotate.)**

| | Yes | No | Not Sure |
|---|-----|----|-------------|
| Bruce Braley, Congressman from Iowa's first district | 36 | 33 | 31 |
| Steve King, Congressman from Iowa's fourth district | 33 | 41 | 26 |
| Chet Culver, former Iowa governor | 39 | 49 | 12 |
| Tom Latham, Congressman from Iowa's third district | 40 | 34 | 26 |
| Christie Vilsack, former Iowa first lady | 42 | 46 | 12 |
| Kim Reynolds, Iowa's lieutenant governor | 33 | 37 | 30 |
| Tom Vilsack, U.S. secretary of agriculture and former Iowa governor | 56 | 35 | 9 |
| Bob Vander Plaats, former candidate for governor | 21 | 54 | 25 |

Here are some issues that may be debated in the Iowa Legislature this year. For each, please tell me if you favor or oppose the initiative. **(Rotate list.)**

| | Favor | Oppose | Not Sure |
|---|-------|--------|-------------|
| Require a government-issued photo ID in order to vote | 71 | 26 | 3 |

The new federal health care law allows states to expand their Medicaid programs, which in Iowa would provide health care coverage to tens of thousands more poor adults. Governor Branstad wants to opt out of this program, saying even though the federal government will pay at least 90% of the new cost, it is still expensive for the federal government and ultimately for Iowans. Do you agree with Governor Branstad's position or do you think Iowa should opt in to the expanded Medicaid program?

- 46 Agree with Governor Branstad
- 47 Iowa should opt in to the expanded Medicaid program
- 7 Not sure

Do you think gun laws in Iowa should be more restrictive or less restrictive than they are now, or are things about right the way they are?

| More Restrictive | Less Restrictive | About right the Way they are | Not Sure |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| 33 | 11 | 53 | 3 |

Here are some specific proposals on guns the U.S. Congress might consider this year. For each, please tell me if you favor or oppose. **(Rotate list, but clip size item must always follow military-style weapons item.)**

| | Favor | Oppose | Not Sure |
|--|-------|--------|-------------|
| Requiring background checks for all gun sales, including those at gun shows and by private sellers | 88 | 11 | 1 |
| Banning military-style weapons, commonly known as assault weapons | 60 | 37 | 3 |
| Renewing the limit on the size of ammunition clips to 10 rounds | 59 | 36 | 5 |

For each of the following, please tell me how much of a factor you think it is in contributing to gun violence—a major factor, a minor factor, or not really a factor.

Which ONE of these do you think is the single biggest factor?

| | Major Factor | Minor Factor | Not Really a Factor | Not Sure | Single Biggest Factor |
|---|--------------|--------------|---------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| Easy availability of guns | 54 | 24 | 20 | 2 | 12 |
| Lack of effective laws controlling who can and who cannot buy guns | 48 | 29 | 19 | 4 | 11 |
| Lack of effective laws on the types of guns that can and cannot be sold | 41 | 32 | 25 | 2 | 5 |
| Violence in the media, including video games | 50 | 30 | 18 | 2 | 12 |
| A culture that glorifies violence | 60 | 26 | 12 | 2 | 12 |
| Lack of available treatment for those with mental illnesses | 74 | 18 | 6 | 2 | 28 |
| Lack of individual responsibility of gun owners | 57 | 27 | 14 | 2 | 15 |
| None of these (VOL) | | | | | 2 |
| Not sure | | | | | 3 |

Currently, state government has a surplus, meaning it took in more money in taxes and fees than it spent. In your view, which of the following would be the best use of the surplus? (**Read list. Rotate.**)

- 45 Devote more money to education reform for kindergarten through high school
- 20 Expand the state's Medicaid program which provides health insurance for the poor
- 7 Cut commercial property taxes
- 22 Give state taxpayers an income tax credit of around \$375 per adult
- 4 None of these (VOL)
- 2 Not sure

Turning now to education, I'm going to mention some changes the Iowa Legislature may consider. For each, please tell me if you think this would make a major difference in raising the quality of education students receive, a minor difference, or no real difference. (**Rotate list.**)

| | Major Difference | Minor Difference | No Real Difference | Not Sure |
|--|------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Raise the base pay for beginning teachers to \$35,000 | 52 | 31 | 16 | 1 |
| Offer a rebate of half of their college tuition to prospective Iowa teachers who are in the top quarter of their college class and agree to work in the state for five years | 59 | 28 | 11 | 2 |
| Pay for all high school juniors to take the ACT or a career-readiness assessment | 34 | 39 | 25 | 2 |
| Pay a higher salary to successful teachers who mentor other teachers | 52 | 32 | 14 | 2 |
| Implement new educator evaluations that take into account improvements in student achievement | 50 | 33 | 14 | 3 |
| Expand online education opportunities | 40 | 42 | 16 | 2 |

About the poll

The Iowa Poll, conducted Feb. 3-6 for The Des Moines Register by Selzer & Co. of Des Moines, is based on interviews with 802 Iowans ages 18 or older. Interviewers contacted households with randomly selected landline and cell phone numbers. Responses were adjusted by age and sex to reflect the general population based on recent Census data.

Questions based on the sample of 802 Iowa adults have a maximum margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. This means that if this survey were repeated using the same questions and the same methodology, 19 times out of 20, the findings would not vary from the percentages shown here by more than plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. Results based on smaller samples of respondents—such as by gender or age—have a larger margin of error.

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